(c) the measures taken to protect and rehabilitate such 11.3 million children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) As per Census 1991 the population in the country between 0-14 years was 37.3%. Presently under Census 2001, only statistics regarding children from 0-6 years are available, *i.e.* 15.42%.

(b) As per NFHS II (1998-99), 47%, 45.5% and 15.5% of children under 3 years are underweight, stunted and wasted children, respectively.

As per NSSO (1999-2000) the estimated figure of working children is 10.4 million.

(c) The Ministry of Labour, Government of India has been implementing two Schemes for the benefit of child labour withdrawn from work, namely, the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under these schemes, special schools/centres have been set up with provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care etc. So far, NCLPs have been sanctioned in 100 districts in 13 child labour endemic states for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

Shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas and teachers in Jharkhand

†1411. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is severe shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas and their teachers in the country especially in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jharkhand and also fill up the vacant posts of teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There are 897 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country out

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of which 25 are in Jharkhand. The vacancies in teaching posts in the country are about 3000 out of which about 40 are in Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) This year two schools have been opened in Jharkhand. At any point of time, a certain percentage of total staff strength remains vacant on account of retirement/voluntary retirement, deaths etc. which is a dynamic phenomenon. These vacancies are continuously filled up through annual recruitment.

Mid-day meal scheme in Karnataka

1412. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children, so far, covered in Karnataka under Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether children upto eighth standard have been covered under the above Scheme in Karnataka; and

(c) the amount proposed to be released to Karnataka during 2003-04 for the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per available information, about 53.49 lakh students studying in primary classes (I-V) in Government, Government-aided, local bodies schools and Centres established under Education Guarantee Scheme are targeted to be covered under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) popularly called Mid-day Meal Scheme during 2003-04. The students studying in upper primary classes (VI-VIII) are not covered.

(c) Under the scheme, as foodgrains are supplied free of cost to States/UTs and admissible transportation charges are reimbursed, there are no State/UT wise allocation of funds.

Independent satellite for educational and cultural activities

1413. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Space in collaboration with the Ministry will be launching an independent satellite dedicated to educational and cultural activities;